

**Testimony in support of:
Senate Bill S.B. 184 and H.B.2562- (CONTINUING ABSENTEE VOTING IN 2022
DUE TO COVID 19)**

Submitted by: ROSALINE BROWN LCSW

Member, Social Welfare Action Alliance, Connecticut Chapter (SWAA-CT)

Senators, I appreciate the opportunity to address you today in support of the Senate Bill. S.H. 184 and H.B. 2562

My name is Rosaline Brown, and I am a registered voter from Waterbury; I am a retired Social Worker from the Dept of Social Services. Today, I'm representing the Social Welfare Action Alliance, Connecticut Chapter, which is a group of professional social workers, allies, and community activists working in partnership with those communities who identify as being most negatively impacted by current societal inequities in efforts to educate, discuss and organize around correcting these inequities.

I am here today to give testimony on bills S.H. 184 and H.B. 2562 and favor in passing both bills. First, to ensure voters can still vote by absentee ballot this year. The ongoing threat of the pandemic means many eligible voters may lose their right to vote in the midterm election. Having the option to vote by absentee ballot is essential, and if they are unable to go to their polling place during the midterm elections, they may lose a fundamental right.

I'm an individual who believes that every eligible voter has the right to vote and that they right to have access to that right. However, this inequity needs to be corrected.

I have both a personal and professional reason for wanting this action. I have family members impacted by the COVID19 and continue to be impede by this pandemic.

Unfortunately, if my family does not have access to vote by absentee ballot and access to a ballot box, they may lose the opportunity to cast their vote like so many others.

I also believe voters should vote by absentee ballot in the 2020 C.T. General Election, which means they vote early on their own schedules.

Please continue the COVID19 safety measures of 2020 and 2021 for 2022 and allow everyone who fears exposure to COVID19 to vote by absentee ballot.

More than 650,000 Connecticut voters voted by absentee ballot in the 2020 C.T.

General Election, breaking a record of 80% turnout. Please listen to Connecticut Voters and make a clear choice and protect the freedom to vote, and pass S.B. 184 and

H.B. 5262

Thank You for your time and consideration.